

Incredible edibles: Jan's Homemade Candies

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4327 N. Ocean Drive, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Tel: 954-202-9495
Web site: janshomemadecandies.com

Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Wow factor: Jan and Bob Lendi have been creating unique sweets in their cozy 800-square-foot shop for 11 years. There's dark, milk and white chocolate truffles, barks, clusters, crunches, creams, bars, caramels, fudge and anything else you can think of that can be enrobed in chocolate. Among the Lendis' many accolades was being featured on a hot and spicy episode of the Food Network's "Food Finds." Their hot chocolate bar, made with dark chocolate and habanero pepper powder, was the star.



Owner Jan Lendi smiles as a store customer ponders her numerous choices.

Background: Jan Lendi learned early in life just how delicious homemade can be. "Our family had very little money, so my mother baked and decorated cakes at home for extra income. I learned how to pipe roses and make wedding bells out of sugar when I was just 9 years old." But it was the special chocolate Easter eggs her mom made each year that sparked Jan's life-long passion for chocolate and instilled visions of owning her own chocolate shop. Jan uses many recipes handed down through generations of her family.

Buy this: All of their chocolate is 72 percent cocoa and kosher. Prices start at \$1 for a small piece, upward to \$35 per pound. The Lendis continually develop new items to add to their repertoire. Two of the newest creations are dark chocolate-covered caramel with sea salt and the Berry Healthy Bark. The dark chocolate bark is studded with cherries, cranberries, blueberries, almonds, pepitas and acai berries. Three of the most-popular items are triple-dipped malted milk balls, black velvet candy (dark chocolate filled with centers of dark chocolate whipped cream) and froggers (creamy peanut butter and crispy rice shaped to look like cute little frogs with bug eyes that look back at you). Not to be overlooked is Jan's fabulous fudge priced at \$14.99 per pound. The signature fudge comes in hard to resist flavors, such as vanilla with butterscotch, rum raisin, watermelon, orange creamsicle, root beer, Key lime, pistachio and pecan turtle.

Shipping: Jan's ships all over the world, using frozen gel packs during hot weather. If you're a local, Jan's hands out complimentary gel packs so you can make it home without a bag full of melted chocolates.

—*Judith Stocks*